



URBAN DISTRICT OF
RAYLEIGH

Annual Report

— of the —

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH**

(NORMAN LORRAINE, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H. F.R.S.E.)

Including the Report of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

(E. H. LLOYD, C.R.S.I.)

for 1938



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RAYLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

COMMITTEES, 1938-1939.

Public Health Committee.

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR A. H. POOLE.

Councillors:

R. COOK

REV. H. ISELIN

Mrs. F. M. COTTEE

J. D. MACKENZIE

J. HART

H. REES, J.P.

W. S. HUXTABLE

M. J. RODWELL.

Meeting :—4th Monday each month, 7.30 p.m.

Composite Public Health Committee

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR H. PRICE POWELL (Canvey Island)

BENFLEET U.D.C.

... Councillors C. E. BELL

P. LANDGRAF

H. R. TUTT, J.P.

CANVEY ISLAND U.D.C.

... Councillors G. A. PICKETT

O. TOGNI

RAYLEIGH U.D.C.

... Councillors R. COOK

J. HART

A. H. POOLE

Meeting :—By arrangement.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health:*

NORMAN S. R. LORRAINE, M.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.S.E., D.P.H., R.C.P.S.(Edin.) and R.F.P.S.(Glas.) Also Medical Officer of Health for Benfleet and Canvey Island Urban District Councils and Assistant County Medical Officer, Essex County Council.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health—Essex County Council:

JEMIMA B. RATCLIFFE, M.B., Ch.B., J.P.†

Orthopædic Surgeon (part-time):

B. WHITCHURCH HOWELL, F.R.C.S.

Ophthalmologist:

J. HORTON YOUNG, M.B., B.S., D.O.M.S.

District Dental Surgeon:

D. W. HURLEY. L.D.S., R.F.P.S.

Specialist, Ears, Nose and Throat (Southend General Hospital—part-time) :

C. HAMBLÉN THOMAS, F.R.C.S.

Health Visitor:

Mrs. M. CASSIDY, C.M.B., General Training, N. Canterbury Hospital, New Zealand. She takes part in the work of the School Medical Inspection, Tuberculosis and Child Welfare under the County Council schemes.

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health:

Miss D. GRUDGINGS.

Sanitary Inspector:*

E. H. LLOYD, C.R.S.I. This officer is qualified in accordance with the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Order, 1935, and in addition holds other certificates.

* One half of the salary attached to these offices is paid by the County Council from Exchequer Contribution Account

† Part time. Also in general practice.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1938.

*Public Health Department,
London Road,
Hadleigh,
Essex.*

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Rayleigh.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Ninth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1938.

I desire again to express my gratitude to all members of the staff of the Department for their loyal co-operation and also to officers of other Departments for information and assistance readily given from time to time.

For the sympathetic consideration and assistance received during the year, I should like to express my thanks to the Council.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

NORMAN LORRAINE,
*M.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.S.E., D.P.H.,
R.C.P.S.Edin., and R.F.P.S.Glas.*

June, 1939.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	5,787
Population :—	
Census, 1921 (Rayleigh)	3,125
(Rawreth)	525
Census, 1931 (Rayleigh including Rawreth)	6,256
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1937	7,501
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1938	7,520
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books	2,500
Rateable Value	£50,526
Sum represented by a penny rate	£200

The Urban District is mainly a residential one. There are no large factories or industrial works. There is one Food Factory in this District which manufactures a large variety of cooked meats and also carries out pastry cooking.

A great number of the inhabitants are engaged in business in London, travelling daily from this District. In the parish of Rawreth, many of the people are engaged in agricultural pursuits.

The District continues to attract a number of elderly retired persons, many of whom are in receipt of a small pension. It is believed that this group, a number of whom are invalids, forms a not inconsiderable percentage of the total population.

There has been no undue prevalence of unemployment in this area.

There are no unhealthy areas in the District.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births ...	91	53	38	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 12.1.
Legitimate	88	52	36	
Illegitimate	3	1	2	
Stillbirths ...	6	2	4	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births : 61.8.
Legitimate	6	2	4	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Deaths ...	95	58	37	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 12.7.

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births :
Other puerperal causes	—	—
Puerperal sepsis ...	—	—
Total ...	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age	...	...	3
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	32.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	34.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	16
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	0

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year which requires comment.

There were no noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity in this District during the year. There was no evidence that the occupations or environment of the inhabitants of this area had a prejudicial effect on their health.

No statistical or other evidence is available of the effects of unemployment on the health or physique of children or adults.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES DURING THE YEAR 1938.

	Rate per 1,000 resident population.		Deaths under one year per 1,000 registered live births.
	Live Births.	Deaths from all causes.	
England and Wales ...	15.1	11.6	53
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London) ...	15.0	11.7	57
148 Smaller Towns with estimated resident populations of from 25,000 to 50,000 at the 1931 Census. ...	15.4	11.0	51
London Administrative County ...	13.4	11.4	57
Rayleigh U.D.C. ...	12.1	12.7*	33

* This figure to render it comparable with the death rate for the country as a whole has to be multiplied by the "Comparability Factor," 0.89, which has been supplied by the Registrar General as requisite to redress the abnormal constitution of the local population from the point of view of sex and age components. Applying this factor, the corrected death rate is 11.3 as compared with 11.6 for the country as a whole.

TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

Year	Population Estimated mid-year Registrar-General	Births	Rate per 1000	Deaths	Rate per 1000	Infant Mortality Annual Report of County M.O.H. 1934 - 37	
						Deaths	Rate per 1,000 livebirths
1934	7,087	87	12.4	83	10.5	8	92
1935	7,232	97	13.4	85	11.7	3	31
1936	7,265	92	12.7	93	12.8	7	76
1937	7,501	98	13.1	89	11.9	5	51
1938	7,520	91	12.1	95	12.7	3	33
							1938 - Local Calculation

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF RAYLEIGH.

Registrar-General's Return, 1938.

	Male	Female	Total
All causes	58	37	95
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fever ...	—	—	—
2. Measles	1	—	1
3. Scarlet fever	1	—	1
4. Whooping cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	1	—	1
6. Influenza	—	—	—
7. Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
8. Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
9. Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	4	1	5
10. Other tuberculous diseases	—	—	—
11. Syphilis	—	—	—
12. General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	—	1	1
13. Cancer	11	5	16
14. Diabetes	2	1	3
15. Cerebral hæmorrhage	2	2	4
16. Heart disease	12	9	21
17. Aneurysm	1	—	1
18. Other circulatory diseases	5	4	9
19. Bronchitis	—	—	—
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	4	1	5
21. Other respiratory diseases	1	—	1
22. Peptic ulcer	—	—	—
23. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—	—
24. Appendicitis	1	—	1
25. Cirrhosis of liver	—	—	—
26. Other liver diseases	—	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases	2	3	5
28. Acute and chronic nephritis	2	2	4
29. Puerperal sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other puerperal causes	—	—	—
31. Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	2	—	2
32. Senility	1	2	3
33. Suicide	1	1	2
34. Other violence	1	3	4
35. Other defined diseases	3	2	5
36. Ill-defined, or unknown	—	—	—

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1938.

Age							No. of Deaths
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
1 and under 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
2 and under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
5 and under 15	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
15 and under 25	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
25 and under 35	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
35 and under 45	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
45 and under 55	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
55 and under 65	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
65 and under 75	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
75 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
						Total	95

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. (i) PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

A list of these will be found at the beginning of this Report.

(ii)

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological specimens are sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 91, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4, and every advantage is taken of these facilities, particularly for the examination of throat swabs in cases of suspected Diphtheria.

The Bacteriologist for Essex examined the following specimens from the Rayleigh Urban District during 1938 :—

Diphtheria	...	...	95
Sputa	...	...	10
Typhoid	...	...	—
Ringworm	...	...	1
General	...	...	—
Milk	...	...	12
Ice Cream	...	...	—
Water	...	...	1
Sewage	...	...	—
Total			119

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There have been no changes in the ambulance facilities for the area during the year under review.

The ambulance which is provided and maintained by voluntary subscription is situate at the Crown Garage, High Street, Rayleigh. This would appear to meet the needs of the district for accident and transport cases.

It is not utilised for the removal of cases of Infectious Disease. This is done by the motor ambulance kept at the Sutton Ford Isolation Hospital.

If the necessity should arise, facilities exist for the utilisation of the Ambulance situate at the Benfleet U.D. Council Offices, Thundersley, under the charge of that Council, and there are also arrangements whereby an ambulance can be provided through the agency of the Essex County Council.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

In the Rayleigh Urban District there is the Rayleigh District Nursing Association and the Rettendon, Runwell and Rawreth District Nursing Association. The nurses are State Certificated Midwives and undertake nursing at home in certain circumstances.

There is one District Nurse Midwife and one independent Midwife practising in the Urban District.

In many cases, if the sanitary conditions of the home are suitable, and isolation is possible, subject to skilled nursing facilities and general care, cases may be treated at home with advantage; however, in other circumstances, removal to hospital is clearly indicated.

In regard to cases of Tuberculosis, domiciliary medical service is not publicly provided but is in the hands of private medical attendants who may consult the Tuberculosis Officer for the area, and who is also your Medical Officer of Health (see under Tuberculosis Dispensary). A Health Visitor visits the home of patients, chiefly for educational and preventive purposes; in most rural districts the Health Visitors are assisted by District Nurses who carry out for the County Council any remedial or curative treatment which may be recommended by the Tuberculosis Officer or local medical attendant. In order to promote isolation and improve home treatment, an open air shelter is provided and maintained free of charge by the District Tuberculosis Officer.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS—UNDER ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

Department	Address.	Hours of attendance each month	Doctor in charge
Maternity and Child Welfare	Health Centre, Rayleigh	2nd and 4th Tuesday 2.30 p.m.	Dr. N. Lorraine
Ante Natal	Health Centre, Rayleigh	4th Thursday 10 a.m.	Dr. J. B. Ratcliffe, J.P.
School Clinic	Health Centre, Rayleigh	2nd and 4th Tuesday 2 p.m.	Dr. N. Lorraine
Toddlers' Clinic	Health Centre Rayleigh	5th Tuesday 2.30 p.m.	Dr. N. Lorraine
Refraction Clinic	Health Centre, Rayleigh	1st Monday, Jan., April, July & Oct. 10 a.m.	Dr. J. H. Young
Weighing Centre	Parish Hall, Rawreth	2nd and 4th Wednesday 2.30 p.m.	Dr. J. B. Ratcliffe, J.P.

The Rayleigh Combined Treatment Centre was formally opened by Alderman Mrs. B. W. Williams, M.B.E., J.P., Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee, Essex County Council, on the 28th June, 1938.

The Combined Treatment Centre is situated in Eastwood Road, Rayleigh.

The building is constructed of sand faced bricks, the pitched roof over the Waiting Hall being covered with sand faced tiles, the remainder of the roofs are flat of fire resisting construction.

The accommodation provided in the Treatment Centre has been arranged on the Ground Floor.

A Waiting Hall, 40ft. 3ins. by 20ft., occupies the centre of the building, the various rooms being arranged as follows :—

Medical Officer's Consulting Room	
Treatment and Weighing Room	
Dental Surgeon's Consulting Room	
Recovery Room	East Side.
Medical Officer's Consulting Room	
Nurses' Room, with collapsible dressing boxes	
Waiting Room	West Side.

The glazed folding partition divides the Nurses' Room from the Main Waiting Hall, which, when folded enables them to be used together as one large Hall when desired.

A small Kitchen, the lavatory accommodation and the heating chamber are situated behind the Waiting Hall, and a flat for the Caretaker is provided on the First Floor.

The building is lighted by electricity and heated by a low pressure hot water system.

At the rear of the building and connected to same by a short covered way, a shelter is provided for perambulators.

Tuberculosis Dispensary—under Essex County Council.

Address: Municipal Health Centre, Warrior Square, Southend-on-Sea.

Hours of attendance: Wednesday afternoons and by arrangement.

Dr. in charge: Dr. N. Lorraine.

Venereal Diseases.

A Clinic is available for Essex patients at Southend-on-Sea Borough Sanatorium under the London and Home Counties Venereal Diseases scheme. Patients from the administrative County of Essex may attend for advice and treatment at most of the large London Hospitals.

(e) HOSPITALS—PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.

There have been no material changes in the provision of hospitals, public or voluntary.

Tuberculosis.

Beds at Sanatoria and Hospitals are provided for suitable patients on the recommendation of the District Tuberculosis Officer. Any person in need of institutional treatment should therefore apply, preferably through his local medical attendant, to the Tuberculosis Dispensary nearest to his home. Travelling expenses of necessitous cases and ex-service men to and from Institutions are defrayed by the County Council.

Various Institutions in the County of Essex and elsewhere receive suitable patients by arrangement with and on the recommendation of the Chief Tuberculosis Officer.

Maternity Hospital.

There is no Maternity Hospital in the District, but under the Essex County Council, arrangements are made for cases to be admitted to Queen Mary's Hospital, Stratford.

Children's Hospital.

There is no Children's Hospital in the area.

Fever Hospital.

Patients from this Urban District are admitted to the Sutton Ford Isolation Hospital, Rochford. This hospital is administered by a Joint Hospital Committee with two members from the Rayleigh U.D.C.

There are 24 beds for patients suffering from Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever. When no further accommodation is available, arrangements are made for such cases to be admitted to the Billericay Isolation Hospital.

As mentioned in my Annual Report for 1937, the South-East Essex Joint Hospital Order, 1937 provides for the Urban Districts of Benfleet, Billericay, Brentwood, Canvey Island and Rayleigh and the Rural District of Rochford to be formed into one united district for the purposes of the provision, maintenance and management for the use of the inhabitants of the constituent districts of hospitals for the reception of cases of infectious disease.

It is hoped that the Sutton Ford Isolation Hospital will be transferred to this Board at an early date.

At the time of going to press this Hospital has been transferred as and from 1st April, 1939.

Smallpox Hospital.

Accommodation is provided by the Essex County Council for patients from this District to be admitted to the Smallpox Hospital adjacent to the Isolation Hospital, situated in Mill Road, Mile End, Colchester.

General Hospital.

The nearest available is outside the District and is the Southend-on-Sea General Hospital. Local residents may subscribe.

By arrangement with the Essex County Council and this Hospital, operative treatment of tonsils and adenoids in children is carried out by Mr. C. Hamblen Thomas, F.R.C.S. (Eng.)

The following excerpt from the County Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1937 is of interest :—

“ It is estimated that by the time the present arrangement with the Southend-on-Sea County Borough Council expires in 1951, at least 200 hospital beds will be required for the area of the old Rochford Hundred (which includes the Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh Urban Districts and the Rochford Rural District) and that this number will increase to 250 over a period of years.

In October 1937, the Borough Council intimated that they had found it necessary to modify their views so far as the provision of accommodation in perpetuity for the Rochford Hundred was concerned, but that they were willing that their hospital should be regarded as serving for all time the Rochford Rural District in addition to the County Borough.

As a result of a Conference between representatives of the County Council and the Borough Council, discussions are now in progress with a view to the formulation of definite alternative proposals in accordance with suggestions made at that Conference.”

Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institutions.

Arrangements are made under the Essex County Council for admission of these cases to suitable institutions.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children in this District.

There is one registered Nursing Home in the area.

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. H. Lloyd, for the bulk of particulars supplied under Sections C. D. and E.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER.

The Southend Waterworks Company, which provides a piped supply in the district, gave a constant and satisfactory supply throughout the year.

Satisfactory arrangements have been made by the Company for ensuring a wholesome water supply. The Company employs a resident and fully qualified chemist at its Langford purification works and examinations of the supply are made daily. Arrangements have been made with the Company for quarterly reports of examinations made by Dr. Suckling of the Counties Public Health Laboratories to be sent

to the local authority.

The number of houses connected with the public supply at the end of the year was 2,561, an increase of 158 as compared with the number connected at the end of 1937. During the year 62 houses which had previously relied on shallow wells or other doubtful sources of supply connected to the public supply.

During the year samples of water were taken from 7 wells supplying 14 houses and submitted to the Counties Public Health Laboratories for chemical and partial bacteriological analysis. The Analyst reported as follows :—

Wholesome	1	
Unwholesome	4	(supplying 11 houses)
Doubtful supplies	2	

Of the four samples adversely reported upon, three wells are about to be closed and the nine houses relying thereon connected to the main water supply. The local authority are considering the extension of the main supply to serve the houses relying on the other well.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Seven roads, the houses in which formerly relied on the conservancy system of drainage, were sewered during the year, 3,675 yards of sewer were laid in these roads and 156 houses were served by the newly laid sewers.

Three roads on a new estate were sewered, 637 yards of sewer being laid in these roads.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The River Crouch forms the Northern boundary of the Rayleigh Urban District. The river receives the effluent from the Western Sewage Disposal Works.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Of the 96 new houses erected during the year, 83 were connected to the sewer.

97 existing houses were converted from a conservancy system of drainage and were connected to the sewer.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The Sanitary Inspector is the Officer responsible to the Council for the control of this service. Collection is by two horse-drawn vehicles and four men are employed. Refuse is collected once weekly, except from the Rawreth area, where a once fortnightly collection is in operation.

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping, and this method has been found to be satisfactory. One of the collectors also acts as part time tip attendant.

NIGHT SOIL.

Night soil is collected from 66 houses in the district; 42 by the Council and 24 by a contractor.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA—SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Houses inspected and recorded under Housing (Consolidated) Regulation 1925 and 1932	59
Houses inspected but not recorded under Housing Regulation	30
Re-inspections as to housing defects	265
Houses measured and other visits relating to the abatement of overcrowding	67
Houses inspected prior to the removal of the tenant to a Council House	5
Water Supplies	114
Water Samples taken for chemical and bacteriological examination	7
Investigations as to nuisances	75
Re-visits as to nuisances	70
Ditches and Watercourses	45
Drainage inspections	43
Public cleansing visits	14
Pig keepers premises	5
Refuse dumps	30
Sewage disposal works	2
Moveable dwellings	2
Rats and Mice	22
Public Urinals	30
Storage of petroleum	10
Infectious Disease enquiries	80
Shops Acts, 1934, as to ventilation, heating and Sanitary Accommodation	1
Factories and Workshops Act, 1901, and Factories Act, 1937 :	
Factories with mechanical power	10
Factories without mechanical power	5
Workplaces	—
Outworkers premises	1
Cowsheds and Dairies and Milkshops	52
Bakehouses	4
Butchers premises	10
Slaughterhouses	119
Fish Shops	8
Ice-cream dealer's premises	5
Other food premises	13
Milk samples taken for bacteriological examination ...	12
Samples of ice-cream taken for bacteriological examination	—
Interviews with owners, builders, etc.	35
Miscellaneous visits	20

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Summary of Nuisances abated and defects remedied after action
by Health Department.

Housing.

Roofs Renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Roofs Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Walls of houses rendered damp-proof	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Defective walls rebuilt or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Floors repaired or renewed (rooms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Walls repapered or distempered (rooms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Ceilings repapered or redistempered (rooms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Wall plaster repaired (rooms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Ceiling plaster repaired (rooms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Yards or passages paved or drained	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
New chimney pots provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ventilated food stores provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Houses connected to water company's mains	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Accessability of water supplies improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Existing water supplies improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Doors and windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Underfloor ventilation improved (houses)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Door steps repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sashcords renewed (windows)	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Lighting of rooms improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ventilation of rooms improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Verminous rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Handrails provided to staircases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Door locks repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Site concrete provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Drainage:

New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Houses with conservancy systems of drainage connected to sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
New gullies provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Blocked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
New W.C.'s. provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cesspools repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
W.C. flushing cistern provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
W.C. flushing cistern repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pail closets renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pail closets improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
New inspection chamber covers provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New fresh air inlets provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Gutters and downpipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Intercepting traps installed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

General.

Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	6
Ditches cleared	...	...	...	...	10
Nuisances from rats abated or diminished	...	...	...	...	5
Factories—Sanitary Accommodation improved	...	...	...	...	2

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901 and THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937, (Which superseded the Act of 1901 on 1st July, 1938).

1. Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health.

Premises *	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	10	2	—
Factories without mechanical power	5	1	—
Other Premises under the Act	—	—	—
Total	15	3	—

2. Defects.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	1	—	1	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)	—	—	—	—
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	3	2	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	1	1	1	—
Total	5	3	2	—

(iv) **SHOPS AND OFFICES.**

No action was taken during the year with regard to ventilation, temperature, and sanitary accommodation at shops and offices.

(v) **CAMPING SITES.**

There are no camping sites in the district.

(vi) **SMOKE ABATEMENT.**

The district is mainly residential and no action was necessary during the year.

(vii) **SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.**

There are neither public nor privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public in the district.

(viii) **ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.**

1. Number of houses found to be infested and subsequently disinfested.

Council Houses	...	Nil
Other houses	...	1

2. Method employed for freeing houses from bed bugs.

(a) Council Houses—Picture rails of bedrooms and all other woodwork which appears to be infested is either removed or loosened. Parts likely to be infested are sprayed with Zaldecide and rooms infested are fumigated with Lawes block disinfectants. This treatment is repeated after 21 days.

(b) Private Houses—Carried out by owners or tenants with advice and under supervision, or by local authority for which service the owner or tenant is charged.

3. Methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to a Council House—the premises and belongings of all prospective tenants are inspected prior to removal to a Council House. If found to be infested, the tenant is not accepted until disinfestation is carried out to the satisfaction of the local authority.

4. The work of disinfestation is carried out by the local authority in the case of council houses.

5. Measures taken to prevent infestation and reinfestation after cleansing. After disinfestation the tenants are advised as to means of preventing reinfestation and several subsequent visits are paid to see that the tenants are acting upon the advice given.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

The Sanitary Inspector acts as Petroleum Inspector for the district. During the year 17 licences were issued to store petroleum in respect of premises within the district.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

The Sanitary Inspector administers the provisions of the above Act. The Council, during the year, issued free rat poison to the public, and allowed the free use of their smoke machine. This practice has produced very good results, and in many cases premises have been entirely freed from rats and mice and in others the infestation has been greatly reduced.

4. SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions and water supplies of the schools are satisfactory. The routine examination of School children in the district is regularly conducted each year by the School Medical Inspector. Dental Clinics have been held during the year and fillings completed where necessary.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a)	By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c)	By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	96

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	89
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	265
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	59
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	195
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	7
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	80

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

A--Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	13
-----	---	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	7
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	1

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	6
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	4
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	5

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV. OVERCROWDING:

A.	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	2
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	2
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	14
B.		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
C.	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	15
D.		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION
OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

Registration of persons and premises.

The following table shows the number of persons and premises registered by the Council on 31st December, 1938 :—

Producers premises	...	...	...	17
Dairies where milk is bottled but not produced	...	...	...	2
Retail shops where milk is sold in sealed bottles only	...	...	...	3
Retail purveyors by rounds from premises outside the district	...	...	...	8

52 visits were paid to producers premises and to dairies during the year.

12 samples of milk were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination during the year, 11 being of ordinary and one of graded milk. With the exception of one ungraded milk, all were reported as being of a satisfactory standard of cleanliness. In addition to the above samples, 30 samples of milk were taken at Accredited farms in the district by the Essex County Council and of these 6 were reported as unsatisfactory.

10 samples of milk from producers premises in the district were taken by the Essex County Council for biological examination and all were reported as not containing tubercle bacilli.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The following licences were issued by the Essex County Council and the district council for the production and distribution of graded milks :—

To produce Accredited Milk	...	...	...	...	...	4
To distribute Tuberculin Tested Milk, bottled outside the District	...	...	...	...	...	2
To distribute Pasteurised Milk pasteurised and bottled outside the District	...	...	...	...	...	2

ICE CREAM.

The following is a statement of persons and premises registered for the manufacture or sale of ice cream on 31st December, 1938.

Registered as manufacturers and vendors	...	8
Registered as vendors only	...	7

(b) MEATS AND OTHER FOODS.

There is one registered slaughterhouse in the district and this is well conducted. 119 visits both for ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection were paid to the slaughterhouses during the year. The following table shows the results of these inspections :—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	54	1	15	279	210
Number inspected—	45	1	9	185	181
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i> Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	2.22	—	—	0.54	—
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i> Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	13
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.44	—	—	—	7.18

The following unsound food was surrendered :—

				No.	Approx. weight lbs.	Disease
Bovine :	Lungs	... ..	...	1	10	Tuberculosis
	Livers	... ..	...	1	12	Abscesses
	Head & Tongue	... ..	...	1	25	Tuberculosis
	Mesentery	... ..	...	1	10	Tuberculosis
Pig :	Head	... ..	...	2	26	Tuberculosis
	Pluck	... ..	...	2	14	Tuberculosis
	Loin	... ..	portion	11½	11½	Tuberculosis
	Mesentery	... ..	...	8	9	Tuberculosis
Sheep :	Carcase & Offal	... ..	...	1	60	Accidental death
Rabbits :	...	... ..	...	8	26	Decomposing

Total approximate weight ... 203½ lbs.

Inspections were made from time to time of meat offered for sale in butchers shops and no meat so exposed was found to be unfit.

(c) ADULTERATION.

The Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act is administered by the Essex County Council. The following information has been supplied by the Sampling Officer of samples taken within the Urban District.

	Article					Number taken
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	21
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	4
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	1
						—
Total					...	26
						—

All samples taken were found to be genuine.

(d) **CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.**

Samples of foodstuffs taken for chemical and bacteriological examination are sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratories under the Essex County Council Scheme.

(e) **NUTRITION.**

No special action has been taken during the year under review regarding special investigations on the subject of nutrition.

The question of adequate nourishment, especially for children, is carefully watched in this District and Medical Officers in charge of Child Welfare Centres and those responsible for School Medical Inspection have every facility under the Essex County Council Schemes for obviating the presence of sub-nutrition occurring in this District.

No difficulties should arise in respect of recommendations by those relevant officers, of milk, etc., and the list of articles which may be recommended is an extensive one.

In this reference, in schools the "free meal" (mid-day dinner) should ensure that school children are not likely to suffer from lack of nutrition owing to economic causes. Further advantage is being taken of this Scheme and in certain instances it has proved to be a boon.

(f) **SHELL-FISH (MOLLUSCAN).**

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in this District.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.

During 1938, I am pleased to report that there was a considerable decrease in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified. Seventeen cases were notified as compared with fifty-five in the previous year. Fourteen cases were removed to hospital for treatment and the remaining three were treated at home under the care of the local medical attendants. I am pleased to be able to state that all the cases were mild

and all made satisfactory recoveries. The one death from Scarlet Fever shown in the list of causes of death on page 10 occurred in a boy aged 17 months whose home address was in this area but who died in a London hospital and who presumably was notified as a case of Scarlet Fever in that district. The immediate cause of death was not Scarlet Fever but a chest condition.

Diphtheria.

More cases of Diphtheria were notified during 1938 than have been notified during each of the last five years as will be seen from the table of notifiable diseases shown under the different years, 1934-1938. Twenty-six cases were notified of which number four were later denotified as the diagnosis was not confirmed on investigation at the Hospital. There was an outbreak at Rawreth in October but fortunately of a fairly mild character and I am pleased to be able to report that no deaths occurred in this parish as a result of notifiable diphtheria. Of the twenty-six cases notified, fourteen were residing in the Rawreth area.

I regret that a boy, aged 6 years, who was notified as suffering from Diphtheria and who resided in Rayleigh died from Diphtheria a few hours after admission to the Hospital. Once again, I would point out to parents the desirability of calling in their local medical attendants as soon as a child complains of sore throat, has a temperature, and generally feels out of sorts.

An adequate supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept in stock for the use of practitioners for the poorer inhabitants of the District.

In regard to Immunisation against Diphtheria, a local Scheme has been prepared and received consideration by my Local Authorities of Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh. When this has received the approval of the Ministry of Health it is hoped that the scheme will be put into operation during the year 1939, and when the scheme has received the approval of the Local Authorities, the local Branch of the British Medical Association and the Ministry of Health, full details will be given in my Annual Reports.

Smallpox and Enteric Fever.

Again I am glad to be able to report that no cases of these diseases were notified in this District during 1938.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

No cases were notified in this area during the year.

Pneumonia (Acute Primary or Influenzal).

Two cases of Acute Influenzal Pneumonia were notified, and both were treated at home.

Erysipelas.

A boy, aged 14 years, was notified as suffering from Erysipelas and was admitted to Hospital for treatment. I am glad to say that he made satisfactory recovery.

Arrangements which were made during 1936 by the Local Authority for patients from this District suffering from complications of Measles to be admitted to the Borough Sanatorium for Infectious

Diseases, Balmoral Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, for treatment, with my approval, on request from a local medical practitioner, at a cost of two guineas per week, are still in force. No guarantee can be given that an application for admission of a patient can be acceded to, as necessarily the Medical Superintendent must have primary regard to the needs of the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea and, at times, may have no suitable accommodation available. During 1938, no cases from the District were admitted to the Borough Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases suffering from complications of measles.

No local action has been taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation but from time to time, I have advised local medical practitioners as to how this measles serum can be obtained.

National Campaign to encourage the wider use of the Health Services.

During the year, wide publicity was given to the various Health Services under the auspices of the County Council, etc., by distribution of posters in conspicuous places in the District and by other means. I think that this has resulted in more of the general public knowing of the many Health Services available for them with consequent improved use of these Services.

A Health Exhibition was held in Rayleigh on the 8th and 9th November, 1938 in the Methodist Hall, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh and was opened by Alderman A. M. Mathews, J.P., Chairman of the Public Health Committee of the Essex County Council. The programme contained many items of interest, including educational films, talks and lectures with demonstrations. Gymnastic displays, etc., were also given and the whole Exhibition was most interesting and instructive and was well attended.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1938.

Notifiable Disease	Cases included in Weekly Returns													Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	[Sex	
	At Ages															M.	F.
	At all Ages	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over				
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	17	—	1	—	2	—	7	2	2	2	1	—	—	14	—	7	10
Diphtheria	26 (4)	—	—	1	2	1 (1)	10 (1)	7 (2)	1	4	—	—	—	26	1	14	12
Enteric Fever (in- cluding Para- typhoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Acute Primary or In- fluenzal)	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	1
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—

The figures in parentheses indicate the number of cases in which the diagnosis was not confirmed.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Year	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid)	Puerperal Fever (To 30/9/37)	Puerperal Pyrexia	Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal)	Erysipelas	Acute Poliomyelitis	Tuberculosis	
										Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1934	—	9	23	1	1	—	—	1	—	5	2
1935	—	8	7	—	—	—	1	1	2	8	2
1936	—	29	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	6	2
1937	—	55	5 (1)	—	—	—	2	1	—	4	2
1938	—	17	26 (4)	—	—	—	2	1	—	9	—

The figures in parentheses indicate the number of cases in which the diagnosis was not confirmed.

4. (a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action was taken during the year under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

(b) TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year, no action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade.

No action was taken during 1938 under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

During 1938, nine cases of tuberculosis were notified, all respiratory. Many of these had been notified in other districts and were re-notified on transferring to this District.

I regret that five cases of respiratory tuberculosis died during the year, four males and one female. Of these, four were notified at the time of death, and two were over seventy years of age.

Particulars regarding the date of notification in this district in relation to the date of death will be found under the table showing age groups in regard to new cases and mortality.

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths was 1:5.

The standard of notification was satisfactory in this District during the year and any unnotified cases are generally the result of recent transfers into the district, the population of which is constantly changing.

There was no evidence of any cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify and there was no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the District.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				MORTALITY			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
35—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	5	4	—	—	4	1	—	—

Deaths from Tuberculosis during 1938 and Particulars regarding notification. When Notified.

No. of Deaths	After Death	Within 3 months of death	Within 3—6 months of death	Within 6—12 months of death	Within 1—2 years of death	Within 2—4 years of death	More than 4 years before death	Unnotified
5	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	1

METEOROLOGY.

It might be a matter of interest to add a few remarks in respect of the question of the relationship between the weather and health during the year 1938.

I understand that the year broke all records for warmth in March and November and also gave us a very mild January and February. Apart from its climatic freakishness, 1938 will be remembered as an exceptionally healthy year. The Registrar General's returns show that,

compared with 1937, the number of deaths in urban districts of England and Wales had diminished by 5 per cent., and it is probable that the exceptionally frequent and severe gales have helped to secure this clean bill of health: the country has been better ventilated than usual, with atmospheric stagnation—which favours the spread of epidemic diseases—at a minimum.

In the autumn, medical experts found that coughs and colds were fewer than usual at that time of the year and the unseasonably mild weather was excellent for reducing the number of cases of pneumonia and relieving sufferers from bronchial trouble. There have been no extreme temperatures to cause strain but towards the latter part of December it will be recalled that the climatic conditions worsened and snow and ice were responsible for corresponding reduction of temperature and aggravation of any disabilities particularly relating to chest trouble.

It is interesting to compare the average annual death rate per 1,000 for 1938 for England and Wales (11.6), with the rate for 1929 (13.4) in which year it will be remembered we endured the greatest frost since 1895. Next worst year for mortality came 1937 (12.4) with its bitter March and December.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS ACT, 1937.

I feel that this Report would be incomplete without mentioning the responsibilities which have devolved upon Medical Officers of Health in respect of the Casualty Services, Air Raid Precautions.

Since the crisis of September, 1938, the duties involved for A.R.P. work have increased without abatement, and at the end of the year encroachment on my time amounted to 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % in respect of these A.R.P. duties.

Under the terms of my Combined Medical Services appointment, on a salary basis, I was permitted to devote to all my Medical Officer of Health duties 3 days per week.

In respect of my public health duties, this introduces a serious aspect which I felt bound to bring to the notice of my Local Authorities and the Essex County Council. At the time of writing this comment (May, 1939), on the representations of my Local Authorities, my duties were re-allocated as and from 1st April, 1939, but still encroachment, after re-adjustment of A.R.P. work amounts to about 25% of this time, still without assistance, single-handed and with no deputy.

It would appear to me that this matter should have an early remedy as if it is decided that all A.R.P. duties must receive prompt attention and public health duties must receive due consideration at the same time, assistance is obviously essential. At the time of going to press, I understand that this will be provided at an early date.

My thanks are due to Dr. W. A. Bullough, County Medical Officer of Health, and to Dr. C. Grant Pugh, Medical Officer of Health of the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea for their advice and help which has been much appreciated.

Close co-operation between this Department and general practitioners renders all duties pleasant and productive.

My thanks are due to Miss Grudgings for the assistance she has rendered in the compilation of this Report.



